Boston, No 113 State St, 2 P.M. Friday,
June 2d –

Dear Mr Higginson,

I am now here awaiting the sad procession expected soon to move down Court Street, State St, & Long Wharf, to the U.S. Revenue Cutter "Morris", wherein our poor, outraged brother Anthony Byrnes is to be borne back to Virginia soil, and to be cast into the slave-pens which are the principal characteristics of that old Mother of States. As you will have heard, Commissioner Loring has remanded Byrnes into the hands of his claimant. The Mayor early this morng issued a proclamation,

— here I was called off, and I have seen the cortège – first came a body of troops, with drawn swords; then a large force of police & marines with drawn swords, surrounding a hollow square of the same, in the midst of which walked Byrne, with a face calm & manly, tho' very serious. Next came a large brass field-piece with artillery men, loaded to the muzzle & ready to be discharged, if needed. Then came a force of infantry. And, ever & anon, as the people rushed in behind, & on all sides, with groans & hisses, & many with cheers, companies of mounted horsemen would rush down the streets, ~~scattering &~~ dividing & scattering them for the time. He has gone! and Boston & Massachusetts lie, bound hand & foot, willing slaves, at the foot of the Slave Power, the most cruel & accursed despotism this poor world has ever been oppressed by. He has gone to the tender mercies of the Slavetraders

I cannot stop to give you the thousand & one particulars of the day. The Mayor delegated full power to Genl B. F. Edmands, and the Chief of Police, to ~~use~~ call out & use their respective forces to preserve Order & publicly warned all citizens to keep out of the streets where the procession would pass. —

[I recd. yours for Lucy Stone, & speedily put it into her hands at the Meionaon. The Woman's Convention was crowded to excess. It was a great mistake that a larger hall was not procured. — I have also recd yours relating to the man for whom you justly feel so much interest; and I will not fail to put it into the right] hands.

Do not write to me again for a few days, (or not to Boston) as I go to Leicester tomorrow morning ~~for a~~ ~~few days~~ to remain perhaps till Tuesday. — Now the slave is off, the Authorities will have time to attend to other matters. And we shall see whether Massachusetts will ever try to shake off the infernal incubus of slavery. — Gov. Washburn, by his negative (if not positive) participancy in this case has forever disgraced himself, & done what he could to destroy Massachusetts — I wait however further information about his course,

Truly yrs. S. May Jr

Ms. B.1.22 (22)